## REMARKS

By the foregoing amendment, Claims 15 and 20 have been amended, and Claims 19 and 24 have been cancelled. Favorable reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

Claims 15-16, 18-21, 23 and 24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) on the grounds of anticipation by Wong, disclosing a fluid testing apparatus with assay strips disposed within a cap. Claim 15 has been amended to recite "an annular bridging wick piece adjacent to and in fluid communication with said wick and in immediate contact with said assay strip for conducting the liquid sample from said wick to said assay strip." Claim 20 has been similarly amended to recite "an annular bridging wick piece adjacent to and in fluid communication with said wick and in immediate contact with said assay strips for conducting the liquid sample from said wick to said assay strips." As is discussed in Wong at column 4, lines 25-36, Wong discloses end portions 122 of test strips 120 exiting downwardly through exit port 90. The sample is brought up to the test strips by the scoop 50. Wong does not teach, disclose or suggest an annular bridging wick piece adjacent to and in fluid communication with a wick, and in immediate contact with an assay strip for conducting a liquid sample from the wick to the assay strip. It is therefore respectfully submitted that Claims 15-16, 18, 20-21 and 23 are novel and inventive over Wong, and that the rejection pertaining to Claims 15-16, 18, 20-21 and 23 on the grounds of anticipation by Wong should be withdrawn.

In light of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that

the application should now be in condition for allowance, and an early favorable action in

this regard is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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